

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A threshold arrangement capable of reducing a moiré pattern produced by an interference between the output resolution and halftone frequency of an image outputting apparatus is determined. Halftone dot image data is generated by a threshold arrangement determined up to a certain gradation, and low-frequency component data is extracted from the halftone dot image data by an FFT, a LPF, and an IFFT. The position of a threshold where the extracted low-frequency component data is smaller is determined as the position of the threshold for a next gradation. The process of determining the position of the threshold is a process in a real space, and can determine the position of the threshold for the next gradation accurately. The threshold arrangement thus determined minimizes a moiré pattern which is an unwanted low-frequency component in a gradation image that is generated using the threshold arrangement.